



Article Guide: 5th time’s a charm! Why the SpaceX sea landing is such a big deal.

<http://scienceovereverything.com/2016/04/15/5th-times-a-charm-why-spacexs-amazing-landing-is-such-a-big-deal/>

As you read each paragraph:

- Vocabulary – Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
- Focus Questions – Underline in the text where these questions are as you read

Introduction paragraph:

1. What breakthrough in rocketry did SpaceX finally achieve after its 5th attempt?

Landing in the ocean sounds complicated. Why bother doing it in the first place?

2. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of a ground landing versus and a sea landing.

	Ground Landing	Sea Landing
Flight Path		
Fuel Use/Efficiency		
Speed		

3. Which landing method would be best if we were to send a manned spacecraft to the Moon or Mars? Justify your claim with a scientific explanation from the text.

Wow, that’s cool! Why should I care?

4. Why is spending a rocket into space currently so expensive?

5. How could landing rockets on barges in the ocean make going to space more affordable?

Discussion

SpaceX is trying to make going to space more affordable and frequent. Where in the solar system do you think should be explored first? Should we return to the Moon or should we send the first humans to Mars? What about the moons of Jupiter or Saturn, which could possibly be home to life. Explain which destination you would make a priority.

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk says humans need to begin to colonize other planets if our species is to survive. Do you agree that humans need to leave Earth to make it in the future? Why do you think so?

Vocabulary Guide

Rocketry	
Speed	
Barge	
Fuel Efficiency	
Velocities	
Orbit	
Flight Path	